

Find Your Park in the Northeast Region

The 2015 Northeast Region Annual Report



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
Northeast Region



Cover photo: National Park Service Director Jonathan B. Jarvis distributes Every Kid in a Park passes to New York City fourth graders at Hamilton Grange National Memorial.

Contents

Click any title to jump to the story

Introduction

- Recognizing Outstanding Achievement
- Experiencing the National Park Service

Connect

- Footsteps to Freedom
- Haunting Voices from the Past
- Hidden History Uncovered
- Rock[efeller] the Vote
- Youth Connections on the Chesapeake
- A Different Kind of Class
- Back to the Past
- Connecting the Dots

Create

- The Start of Something Big
- Great Falls, Great Food, Great Stories
- If These Walls Could Talk
- Find Your Park, Find Your Inspiration.
- Build It Taller



Next Generation

- Selfies with Stanton
- ProRanger: Continued Success
- History Through the Arts
- Fourth Grade Takeover
- Our Future Preserves the Past
- DNA Detectives
- University of the Outdoors

Park Visitors

- The Hands Behind the Curtain:
 - Once in a Lifetime Events
- Summer White House Reopens
- Closing Events of the Civil War
 - Sesquicentennial Commemoration
- A Common Field One Day. A Field of Honor Forever.
- Pope for the People
- Northeast Region Topped the Charts

Supporters and Advocates

- Can You Dig It? Unearthing History
- Ahead of His Time
- Research is Buzzing at Shenandoah
- Partnering for Success
- School of Hard Rocks



Our 99th Year



Gateway National Recreation Area



Paterson Great Falls National Historical Park



Governors Island National Monument

Recognizing outstanding achievement and preparing for a second century of stewardship.

I'm pleased to share the Northeast Region's 2015 Annual Report. This report contains just a sampling of the many stories that demonstrate how the region's parks and programs have been advancing the National Park Service (NPS) Centennial goal.

The goal of the NPS Centennial is to **connect** with and **create** the **next generation** of **park visitors, supporters, and advocates**. As you'll see in this year's report, we've organized the region's accomplishments by sections of the centennial goal. Parks and program areas throughout the region have achieved great success through community and youth engagement, innovative education, resource preservation and stewardship, and

strengthening existing and cultivating new partnerships.

In support of the NPS Centennial efforts to reach new audiences, we've partnered with the Student Conservation Association to employ 70 **Centennial Volunteer Ambassadors**, 18 in the Northeast Region. These interns began serving year-long internships at a variety of parks in May 2015, specifically working with the Volunteers-In-Parks program, focusing on expanding partnerships in local communities and engaging the next generation of park volunteers. We asked one of these bright interns, Cristina Ramirez, to share some thoughts about the NPS Centennial and her experience as a Centennial Volunteer Ambassador (CVA) at Valley

Forge National Historical Park in Pennsylvania.

We have much to celebrate from our collective accomplishments of 2015. The innovation, dedication, and outstanding work of the employees of the Northeast Region is inspiring. As we look towards our next century, I look forward to the continued successes we will achieve together.

Mike Caldwell

Regional Director

National Park Service - Northeast Region



Experiencing the National Park Service as a Centennial Volunteer Ambassador

In commemorating 100 years of preserving and protecting America's public lands, it is important not just to celebrate what we have already accomplished, but to get ready for the next century. Our parks have gone above and beyond to remain relevant during these busy times. You can see [social media](#) buzzing more than ever with photos and videos of people sharing their experiences at our beautiful parks.

We have only just entered our centennial year, but CVAs, including myself, have already started our work in parks all over the nation. We have spent the past several months revamping volunteer programs, planning centennial events, and helping our parks reach new audiences. We have spent a year working with fourth graders through the Every Kid in a Park program and I'm hoping they will continue to "Find Their Park," even if it happens after our year-long internship has ended.

I have always believed every park has something to offer everyone, no matter what their interests are. That belief has only become stronger since coming to Valley Forge National Historical Park (PA). I have seen people connecting with their park in their own way—whether by running through the park, sharing their love of history as a volunteer, pulling weeds and having fun on a school outing, or becoming a NPS employee after serving as a volunteer. I hope that everything I have worked on, from creating a web page and flyers about the Girl Scout Ranger Program to bringing 80 YMCA Young Achievers to the Martin Luther King Day of Service at Valley Forge, helps someone new make a unique connection to the NPS. The centennial challenges us to come up with new, innovative ideas to get ready for the future. These new ideas will open parks to new audiences, those who may have never thought they would find themselves in a national park, and that will be key to connecting with the next generation of park visitors.

Cristina Ramírez
Centennial Volunteer Ambassador
Valley Forge National Historical Park



Connect

[kuh-nekt] v. to join, link, or fasten together; unite or bind

We are real. We connect you to the special places and extraordinary stories of the national parks and programs in the Northeast Region. We do this by telling both the joyous and the hard stories of our shared heritage. We invite you to join us and make new discoveries of hidden treasures, and find new connections to our waterways and trails.



a Funeral procession reenactment during Footsteps to Freedom program at Appomattox Court House National Historical Park.

b “The Footsteps Choir” and “The Soulsters” perform traditional music.

Footsteps to Freedom

As part of the commemoration of the Civil War Sesquicentennial at Appomattox Court House National Historical Park (VA), the **Footsteps to Freedom** program honored the life and death of Hannah Reynolds, an enslaved

woman in Appomattox County. In the final hours of fighting on the morning of April 9, 1865, Reynolds suffered a mortal wound and died three days later as a free woman. The program included a eulogy for Reynolds and a choral performance by members of several

local African American churches. A funeral procession was illuminated by 4,600 candles—one candle for every enslaved person in Appomattox County who realized freedom with the surrender of General Robert E. Lee’s Confederate army and the war’s end.

“Freedom takes a whole lot of little steps.”

- Rev. Al Jones III

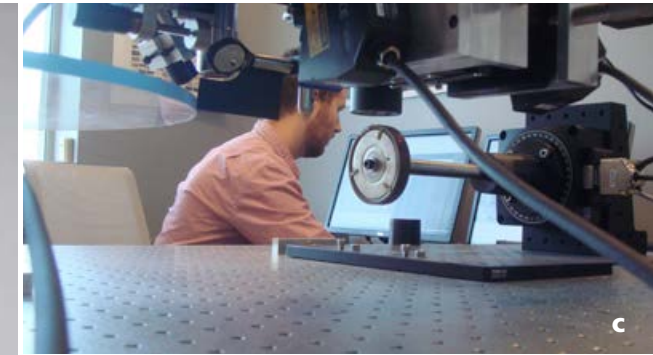
Haunting Voices from the Past

The eerie sounds of Thomas Edison's **talking doll toys** of the 1890's have been lost to history until now. Particle Physicist Carl Haber and Engineer Earl Cornell at Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory developed a method to play the fragile wax cylinder recordings without damaging them.

"We are now hearing sounds from history that I did not expect to hear in my lifetime," said Jerry Fabris, curator at Thomas Edison National Historical Park (NJ).



SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN



a Cover of Scientific American magazine from April 26, 1890 featuring Thomas Edison's talking doll.

b Thomas Edison's talking doll.

c IRENE-3D technology used to scan Thomas Edison National Historical Park's "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star" brown wax cylinder, at Northeast Document Conservation Center.

d Talking doll phonograph mechanism and wax cylinder.

JOAN & ROBIN ROLFS

Hidden History Uncovered

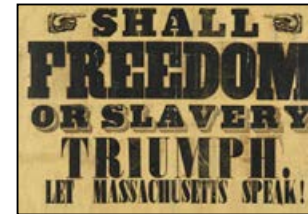
Thousands of visitors flock to Boston each year to visit the city's many famous revolutionary and abolitionist historic sites. But little known to most is the deeper and darker side of Boston's history—its role as a slave port. Beginning in 1638, enslaved Africans were delivered and sold in the port of Boston after an unspeakably cruel journey across the Atlantic Ocean known as the Middle Passage.

Boston African American National Historic Site (MA) partnered with the Middle Passage Ceremonies and Port Markers Project, the Museum of African American History, and

others to bring this important piece of the city's history to the forefront. "In Boston, people think slavery happened somewhere else, but it started here," said Beverly Morgan-Welch, executive director of the Museum of African American History.

On August 23, 2015, the first International Day of Remembrance of the Middle Passage and Its Abolition was held. The morning began with a "Middle Passage Sunday" observance at the Old South Church followed by an afternoon ceremony at Faneuil Hall where hundreds gathered. Speeches and prayers were accompanied by

the sound of drums, chimes, and crashing waves representing the transatlantic crossing. Among the speakers were Massachusetts State Representative Byron Rushing, Museum of African American History Executive Director Beverly Morgan-Welch, Ren Green of the Massachusetts Tribe, and National Parks of Boston Superintendent Michael Creasey who pointed out the irony of holding the event in Faneuil Hall given that the Faneuil family participated in the slave trade. The park plans to support the installation of a public marker that will reflect permanently the city's extensive role in the slave trade.



a Museum of African American History Executive Director Beverly Morgan-Welch.

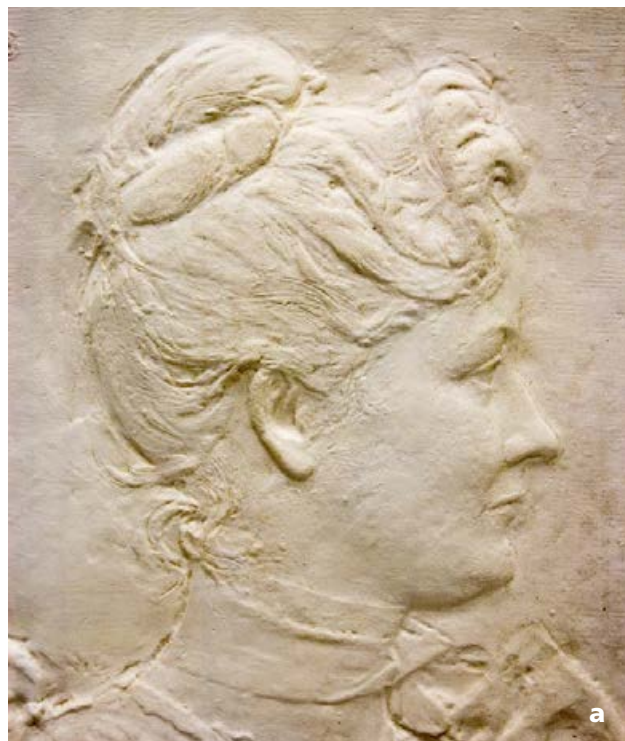


b Attendees listen to speakers at Faneuil Hall.

Rock[efeller] the Vote

Saint-Gaudens National Historic Site (NH) and Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park (VT) combined forces to launch a social media campaign to co-curate a new exhibit in each of the parks' museums with their Facebook fans.

The Raiders of the Lost ART project reflected the voices of online communities through weekly voting sessions to choose the themes and objects to be displayed in each exhibit. The final exhibits, "Curious Critters: Animal Companions and Inspired Illustrations of the Billings-Rockefeller Mansion" at **Marsh-Billings**, and "The Hairstyle Files: Hirsute Gentlemen and Coiffured Ladies of the Gilded Age" at **Saint-Gaudens**, featured a unique collection of artifacts—some that had never been displayed to the public before.



a



Youth Connections on the Chesapeake

Greater access to the Chesapeake Bay was a shared goal of The Anacostia Watershed Society (AWS) and Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail (Trail). Thanks to the assistance of interns and a partnership with **Living Classrooms D.C.**, a floating dock was installed between the Kingman and Heritage islands on the Anacostia River. This **collaborative effort** has not only provided residents and visitors safe access to the river and the Trail, but it has also encouraged partners to work together on community projects. The floating dock project enabled interns to learn new job skills and acquire valuable work experience while bringing Chesapeake Bay partners one step closer to attaining their goal of building 300 new access sites by the year 2025.

a Saint-Gaudens' sculpture of Mary Gertrude Mead highlights her soft coil up-do.

b Facebook post encourages fans to vote for their favorite object.

c Kayakers use the new dock to access the Anacostia River.



c



a



b

a *Mather High School students use their knowledge of wood structures and joinery to raise a timber frame.*

b *Students practice the art of decorative finishing on architectural surfaces.*

c *National Park Service cultural resource specialists mentor students.*



c

A Different Kind of Class

What happens when you mix a unique teaching concept with passionate instructors and a school with a mission to save the past for the future? You get a one-of-a-kind academic experience that comes to life at the **Stephen T. Mather Building Arts and Craftsmanship High School** (Mather) in lower Manhattan. The primary participants—New York City Department of Education, Mather's principal and faculty, National Parks of New York Harbor management and superintendents, and National Park Service (NPS) Northeast Region cultural resources professionals worked as true partners across multiple organizations to make it all possible. This collaboration has resulted in a vibrant academic environment in which Mather students have grasped the NPS ethic to “preserve for the enjoyment of future generations...”. The hands-on instruction encourages students to be risk takers who are comfortable and able to correct their mistakes and work as respectful and responsible team members. The importance of their role in reinvigorating our understanding of how our nation's rich diversity has contributed to our history could be the school's greatest legacy.



PHOTOS: DAVE ROBACK/ THE REPUBLICAN

a Members of the University of Massachusetts Amherst archeological team plan the excavation.

b Archeologists work on-site at Springfield Armory National Historic Site.

c An archaeologist displays a piece of charcoal made from defective M-1903 Springfield rifle stocks.

Back to the Past

University of Massachusetts archaeologists unearthed a treasure trove of artifacts buried under **Springfield Armory National Historic Site's Building 104**, the main manufacturing location for the M1 Garand semi-automatic rifle. Some of the findings included: a 5,000-year-old stone blade, a Civil War-era bullet, chunks of charcoal made from defective M-1903 Springfield rifle stocks, a

brass button fused to the fireplace of a World War I barracks, and more.

"The discovery of these artifacts will provide knowledge that can become a part of visitor programs for years to come...visitors will learn what historic clues were found, the archaeological techniques used, and the reasons behind the scientific practices," said Park Resources and Maintenance Chief Gavin Gardner.

"The discovery of these artifacts will provide knowledge that can become a part of visitor programs for years to come."

- Gavin Gardner
Chief of Park Resources and Maintenance

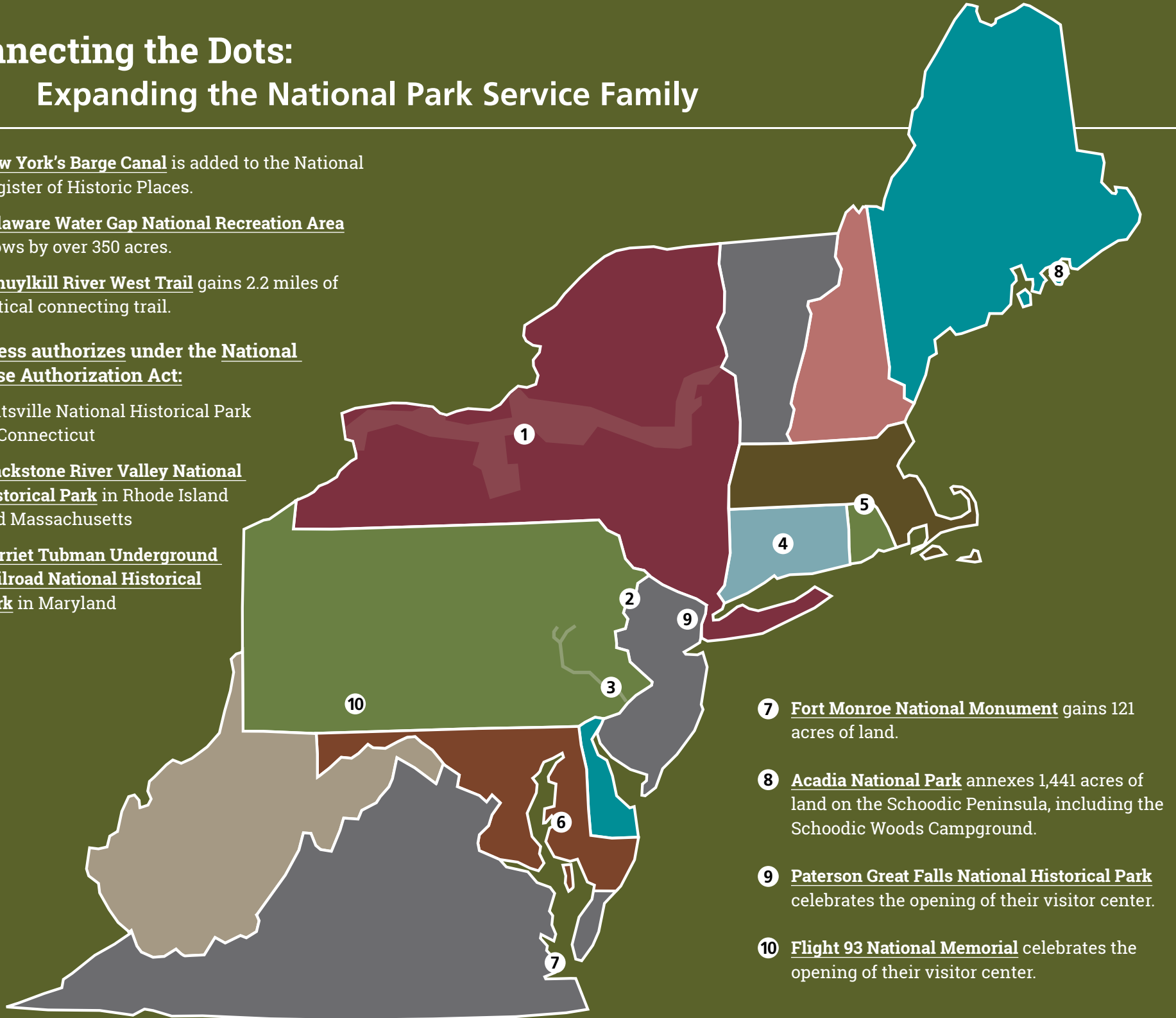
Connecting the Dots:

Expanding the National Park Service Family

- 1 **New York's Barge Canal** is added to the National Register of Historic Places.
- 2 **Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area** grows by over 350 acres.
- 3 **Schuylkill River West Trail** gains 2.2 miles of critical connecting trail.

Congress authorizes under the National Defense Authorization Act:

- 4 **Coltsville National Historical Park** in Connecticut
- 5 **Blackstone River Valley National Historical Park** in Rhode Island and Massachusetts
- 6 **Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad National Historical Park** in Maryland



- 7 **Fort Monroe National Monument** gains 121 acres of land.
- 8 **Acadia National Park** annexes 1,441 acres of land on the Schoodic Peninsula, including the Schoodic Woods Campground.
- 9 **Paterson Great Falls National Historical Park** celebrates the opening of their visitor center.
- 10 **Flight 93 National Memorial** celebrates the opening of their visitor center.



Create

[kree-eyt] v. to evolve from one's own thought or imagination, as a work of art or an invention.

We are creating something big. With the celebrations of the 100th anniversary of the National Park Service and the Find Your Park campaign, we are creating a new understanding of what parks mean. We work with partners to reach new audiences, to help you find your park in your own backyard. And we are using art to help you connect with your parks in new and meaningful ways.



a (L-R) NPS Director Jonathan B. Jarvis, U.S. Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell, and NPF Interim President Dan Wenk attend the launch of the Find Your Park campaign in Times Square.



b Actress and NPS Centennial Celebrity Ambassador Bella Thorne (R) takes a selfie with Fort Stanwix National Monument Superintendent Frank Barrows.

The Start of Something Big

On April 2, 2015 the National Park Service (NPS), joined by the National Park Foundation (NPF), Grey Advertising (Grey), and NPS Centennial Celebrity Ambassador Bella Thorne, **launched the Find Your Park**

campaign in New York City's Flatiron Plaza. Following an early morning media take-over in Times Square, the NPS rolled out the green carpet for visitors to explore national parks around the corner and across the nation. With funding from the NPF, Grey is leading the public awareness campaign of the NPS Centennial through 2016. **Find Your Park**

invites the public to see that a national park is more than just a place—it can be a feeling, a state of mind, or a sense of American pride. Beyond vast landscapes, the campaign highlights historical, urban, and cultural parks, as well as the NPS programs that protect, preserve and share nature, culture, and history in communities nationwide.



a Paterson Great Falls after a heavy rainfall.

b Bilingual signs promote Paterson Great Falls National Historical Park's "Storyfronts" project.

Great Falls, Great Food, Great Stories

The Van Alen Institute (VAI) *National Parks Now: Designing the 21st Century National Park Experience* project brought together multidisciplinary teams of young professionals to four national parks: Paterson Great Falls National Historical Park (NJ), Sagamore Hill National Historic Site (NY), Steamtown National Historic Site (PA), and Weir Farm National Historic Site (CT). VAI challenged each team in a design competition to develop strategies for reshaping the visitor experience at national parks. Over the course of 10 months, the teams focused on a range of engagement, outreach, and experiential strategies. Out of this project emerged **"Six Great Ideas for Connecting Parks to New Audiences,"** strategies to guide the NPS in its second century. In addition, VAI announced Paterson Great Falls National Historical Park as the winning team. Team Paterson imagined the park and the city as extensions of each other, connecting the park to immigrant communities and their local restaurants in the surrounding neighborhoods. Their project **"Great Falls, Great Food, Great Stories"** ties the historical narratives with the diverse, cultural traditions of local residents.

CONNECT WITH AND CREATE THE NEXT GENERATION OF PARK VISITORS, SUPPORTERS AND ADVOCATES.

If These Walls Could Talk

Shuttered for 60 years, Ellis Island's South Side Hospital Complex opened to visitors for the first time on October 1, 2015, revealing an overlooked story of immigration.





The nonprofit, Save Ellis Island, in partnership with the NPS, raised funds to stabilize and partially restore several of the hospital complex buildings which visitors can now experience via 90-minute **Hard Hat Tours.**

In its day, the 29-building complex was the largest U.S. Public Health Service Institution in the country. Approximately 1.2 million of the 12 million immigrants who passed through Ellis Island received medical treatment here. As part of the opening, an art exhibit, **"Unframed-Ellis Island,"** by renowned artist JR, went on display throughout the hospital complex. The exhibit features life-size historic photographs installed on 22 interior walls.

Photo previous page and this page:

"Unframed - Ellis Island" an art installation by the artist, JR, includes life-size historic photographs of Ellis Island immigrants on the interior walls of the island's south side hospital.



Find Your Park, Find Your Inspiration.

As the only NPS site dedicated to American painting, Weir Farm National Historic Site (CT) engages visitors in a creative way. Featured on the **Connecticut Art Trail**, a nationally recognized partnership of 19 world-class museums and historic sites, Weir Farm promoted Connecticut's rich cultural heritage as part of a travel experience through place-based art programs. Visitors to Weir Farm were given watercolor supplies and invited to paint something of their own, taking inspiration from the 60-acre landscape that has inspired artists for 133 years.

Families gather at Weir Farm National Historic Site to enjoy a day of art in the park.



Build It Taller

Thomas Edison National Historical Park (NJ) supported the first ever **New Jersey Makers Day**, a statewide, all-ages event that celebrated Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math

(STEM) based learning. Park staff helped visitors put themselves in the mind of a maker and challenged them to build, mix, invent, and use their creativity in a **variety of laboratory**

activities. During the one-day event, Thomas Edison National Historical Park was one of 130 participating sites that reached more than 13,000 people.



a Thomas Edison National Historic Site park rangers preparing for a scientific adventure as part of New Jersey Makers Day.

b Instagrammer @hijennybrown shares her creative passion.



Next Generation

[jen-uh-rey-shun] n. a group of individuals, most of whom are the same approximate age, having similar ideas, problems, attitudes, etc.

National parks are cool. We're inviting today's youth to visit, volunteer, learn, support, and work for their national parks and programs. With the Every Kid in a Park program, fourth graders and their families are coming to check us out. And with special programs aimed at teens and college students, we're inviting them to join us on the trail, in the park, and on the job.



Selfies with Stanton

More than 167 years after Elizabeth Cady Stanton led the first Women's Rights Convention, Women's Rights National Historical Park (NY) celebrated Stanton's 200th birthday with a year-long selfie contest and an evening of dramatic reenactments. Historical researchers, biographers, and interpreters portrayed Stanton and her friends, including Lucretia Mott, Susan B. Anthony, Frederick Douglass, and Sojourner Truth. **Selfies with Stanton** encouraged the public to share selfies with the park for a chance to win a copy of Stanton's *Eighty Years and More*, signed by her great-great-granddaughter. Contest winners included Cady Elizabeth (that's not a misprint!), named for the Civil Rights advocate.

Visitors pose with statue of Elizabeth Cady Stanton at Women's Rights National Historical Park.



a The last day of ProRanger Orientation and Leadership Camp.

b ProRanger Kelechi Akabogu poses in front of El Capitan at Yosemite National Park.

ProRanger: Continued Success

The sixth cohort of Temple University students enrolled in the **ProRanger Philadelphia Program** (ProRanger) completed their summer internships at 12 national parks. ProRanger is an academic and technical skills training

internship program that is cooperatively administered by the National Park Service (NPS) and Temple University. The program was established to recruit, train, and employ law enforcement rangers for the NPS. This experiential learning program provides students with a diverse background of NPS operations in addition to a foundation in park

law enforcement. Kelechi Akabogu spent 10 weeks in Yosemite National Park (CA) this summer and shared her experience on the **ProRanger Blog**. She said, "This summer was by far the best summer I have ever had in my entire life...I got to experience a totally different part of the United States, open my horizons and embrace different kinds of challenges."

"This summer was by far the best summer I have ever had in my entire life."

- Kelechi Akabogu
ProRanger

History Through the Arts

For four days in October 2015, African Burial Ground National Monument (NY) celebrated the rich cultural heritage of African Americans through song, dance, and special ceremonial programs during the park's annual Youth Week. Events during the week connected New York City's youth and their families to the historic site through book readings, **musical and dance performances**, mask making and drumming workshops, film screenings, lectures, and a commemoration of the 11th anniversary of the reinterment of the burial ground remains.



a Students from Howard University circle around African storytellers for a traditional libation ceremony at the African Burial Ground National Monument.

b Local children participate in an African mask making workshop during the park's annual Youth Week celebration.

Fourth Grade Takeover

In September 2015, The White House launched the **Every Kid in a Park (EKiP) Campaign** to celebrate the NPS Centennial and encourage every fourth grader and their family to visit America's public lands for free during the 2015/2016 school year.

To kick off the campaign, fourth graders in West Virginia and New York City were invited to learn about their local national parks and receive their annual pass. **New River Gorge National River** (WV), brought more than 1,100 students to a **special EKiP event** that included performances and activities

that focused on West Virginia's history. At Hamilton Grange National Memorial (NY), 200 fourth graders enjoyed hands-on outdoor activities with a variety of partners and special guests including NPS Director Jonathan B. Jarvis, the U.S. Forest Service, REI, and Wilderness Inquiry.



More than 1,100 fourth graders participate in the Every Kid in a Park kick-off event at New River Gorge National River.

Our Future Preserves the Past

The National Trust for Historic Preservation's **Hands-On Preservation Experience (HOPE)** initiative partnered with **The Corps Network**, a youth service and development program, to bring together young people and preservationists to rehabilitate nationally significant places. HOPE crews in the Northeast made significant contributions to Gateway National Recreation Area (Gateway) in New York and Hampton National Historic Site (Hampton) in Maryland.

Members of the New Jersey Youth Corps of Phillipsburg made up the crew that worked on the porch of historic Building 26, located in the Sandy Hook Unit of Gateway, which was damaged during Hurricane Sandy. In Towson, Maryland, local architecture majors were recruited for Hampton's crew.

DNA Detectives

A group of 24 Long Island high school students participating in the **Barcode Long Island Project** took their research efforts to Fire Island National Seashore (NY) to sample and document the diverse plant and invertebrate life found there. The project helped the students understand the connection between humans and the environment. Students prepared samples, isolated and amplified DNA, and analyzed their results. They will have the opportunity to present their results at the Barcode Long Island Symposium in May 2016.



a HOPE crew member applies a fresh coat of paint to new porch decking for the historic farmhouse at Hampton National Historic Site.



b HOPE crew poses in front of Building 26 at Gateway National Recreation Area's Sandy Hook Unit.



c Students from Farmingdale High School (NY) collect samples on the beach.

University of the Outdoors

The NPS and The Outdoor Foundation invested \$40,000 in **Outdoor Nation's Northeast Campus Clubs**, a collegiate program that builds connections between college students and outdoor recreation in Northeast national parks. During the 2014/2015 academic year, 10 college and university partners participated in the program and 2,249 participants spent 18,468 hours in 19 different parks. **Watch their short video** that features each of their schools and the parks they visited.



Students at New York's Binghamton University enjoy outdoor time together as part of the Northeast Campus Club.



Park Visitors

[viz-i-ter] n. person who comes to spend time with or stay with others, or in a place for social pleasure, for business, sightseeing, etc.

We are yours. The national parks, trails, and heritage areas throughout the Northeast Region welcome visitors every year with exceptional customer service, extraordinary experiences and carefully protected resources. In 2015, we invited hundreds of thousands of visitors and online viewers to take part in once-in-a-lifetime special events that honored our history and created lasting memories for all.



The Hands Behind the Curtain: Once in a Lifetime Events

Over the past year, the Northeast Region found itself at the epicenter of a number of historic events. Thanks to the work of NPS employees from parks and programs and the Eastern Incident Management Team—a group of NPS employees trained to handle large events and incidents—these events were carried out safely and successfully. Four major events hosted nearly 100,000 visitors in our national parks, in addition to the hundreds of thousands of students, educators, and individuals who followed along and participated digitally through distance learning programs and on social media.

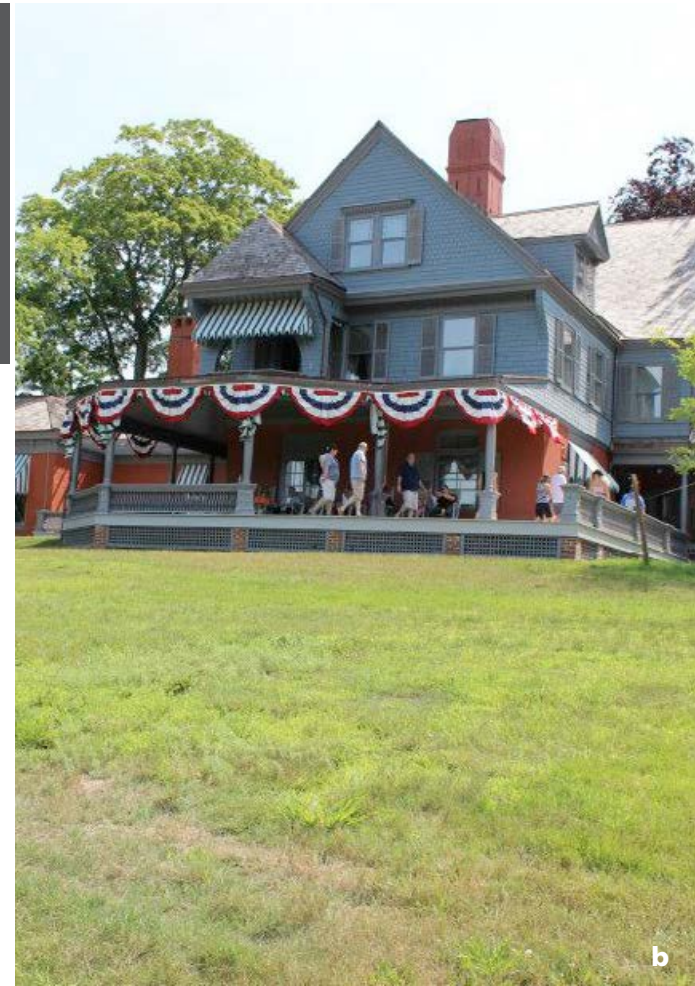
These events included the Civil War Sesquicentennial at Appomattox Court House National Historical Park (VA), the 14th Annual September 11 Observation and Visitor Center Dedication at Flight 93 National Memorial (PA), the Papal Visit to Philadelphia and Independence National Historical Park (PA), and Budweiser's Made in America concert on Liberty Island, part of Statue of Liberty National Monument (NY), which gave nearly 500 concert goers an intimate performance from Grammy award winner, Mary J. Blige.

a Members of the Eastern Incident Management Team and staff from Flight 93 National Memorial gather in front of the newly dedicated visitor center during the annual September 11th observance ceremony.

b Theodore Roosevelt's home in Oyster Bay, NY during its rehabilitation.

Summer White House Reopens

After three and a half years and almost \$10 million in repairs and refurbishment, Theodore Roosevelt's house at Sagamore Hill National Historic Site (NY) was reopened to the public on July 13, 2015. Known as his 'Summer White House,' the home contains 12,000 artifacts, including furnishings, artwork, books, and numerous big game trophies. Visitors who toured the home of the 26th president saw it as it looked when Theodore Roosevelt lived there between 1885 and 1919. **Four thousand visitors** attended the day-long celebration which included tours of the home, children's crafts and games, live music, a photo booth, and a 'Rough Riders' cavalry demonstration.



a Appomattox Court House National Historical Park Superintendent Robin Snyder addresses the many volunteers who helped with the sesquicentennial.

b A live broadcast from Appomattox Court House National Historical Park reaches thousands of students across the country.



Closing Events of the Civil War Sesquicentennial Commemoration

The final seven months of the Civil War Sesquicentennial was commemorated with ranger programs, living history demonstrations, and dramatic reenactments at four Virginia Parks: Cedar Creek and Belle Grove National Historical Park (Cedar Creek), Maggie L. Walker National Historic Site (Maggie Walker), Richmond National Battlefield Park (Richmond), and Appomattox Court House National Historical Park (Appomattox).

In October 2014 at Cedar Creek, months of planning and cooperation by NPS staff

and nonprofit organizations culminated in a successful commemoration of the 150th Anniversary of the **Battle of Cedar Creek**. More than 6,500 visitors and 625 school children participated in education programs and watched 6,000 reenactors bring history to life during three reenactments.

In April 2015, Maggie Walker and Richmond collaborated on programs to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the fall of the Confederate capital. The **four-day event** explored the complexities of that pivotal moment in history from various points of view.

Shortly after the events in Richmond, the five-year commemoration came to a close at Appomattox, where reenactors portrayed the surrender of the Confederate forces. Live from Appomattox, NPS staff broadcasted the event to thousands of students and individuals who tuned in from around the country. The interactive broadcast brought viewers together with noted authors, subject matter experts, and park rangers for engaging conversations. To close the ceremony, Appomattox led the nation in the ringing of **Bells Across the Land**, resonating freedom from sea to shining sea.

24,000+
park visitors
commemorated
the surrender of
Confederate forces
at the Appomattox
closing ceremonies.

A Common Field One Day. A Field of Honor Forever.

Honored guests joined the Families of Flight 93, park staff, the Friends of Flight 93, and more than 1,000 visitors to dedicate the **Flight 93 National Memorial Visitor Center** on September 10, 2015. **Visitor Center exhibits** explore the timeline of the September 11, 2001 attacks and honor the courageous decision of Flight 93's passengers and crew to fight back against the terrorist hijackers, thwarting an intended attack on the nation's capital—saving countless lives at the cost of their own. The new visitor center complex also includes the Learning Center, a multi-purpose gathering space for education, programming and special events, a 2.4 mile system of pedestrian trails connecting the visitor center with the Memorial Plaza, and the dramatic flight path walkway and overlook. The facilities add an educational opportunity to the emotional experience of walking along and viewing the crash site itself.



The flight path overlook (in background) at the Flight 93 Visitor Center provides visitors with a panoramic view of the crash site.



a Independence National Historical Park Superintendent Cynthia MacLeod greets Pope Francis inside Independence Hall.

b His Holiness Pope Francis addresses the crowd in front of Independence Hall.

Pope for the People

On September 26, 2015, His Holiness Pope Francis addressed a worldwide audience from **Independence Hall**. "All of us benefit from remembering our past," said Pope Francis to an estimated 40,000 people. Speaking about the nation's founding documents, the Pope said, "The history of this nation is also the tale

of a constant effort, lasting to our own day, to embody those lofty principles in social and political life."

"Pope Francis reminds us that we are all entrusted to respect and protect the world in which we live," said Director Jarvis. "That we all have a responsibility to care for our common world." His Holiness Pope Francis'

visit to Independence National Historical Park (PA) marked a highlight of his historic first visit to the United States, which coincided with the World Meeting of Families, a 6-day international conference in Philadelphia on faith and family life.

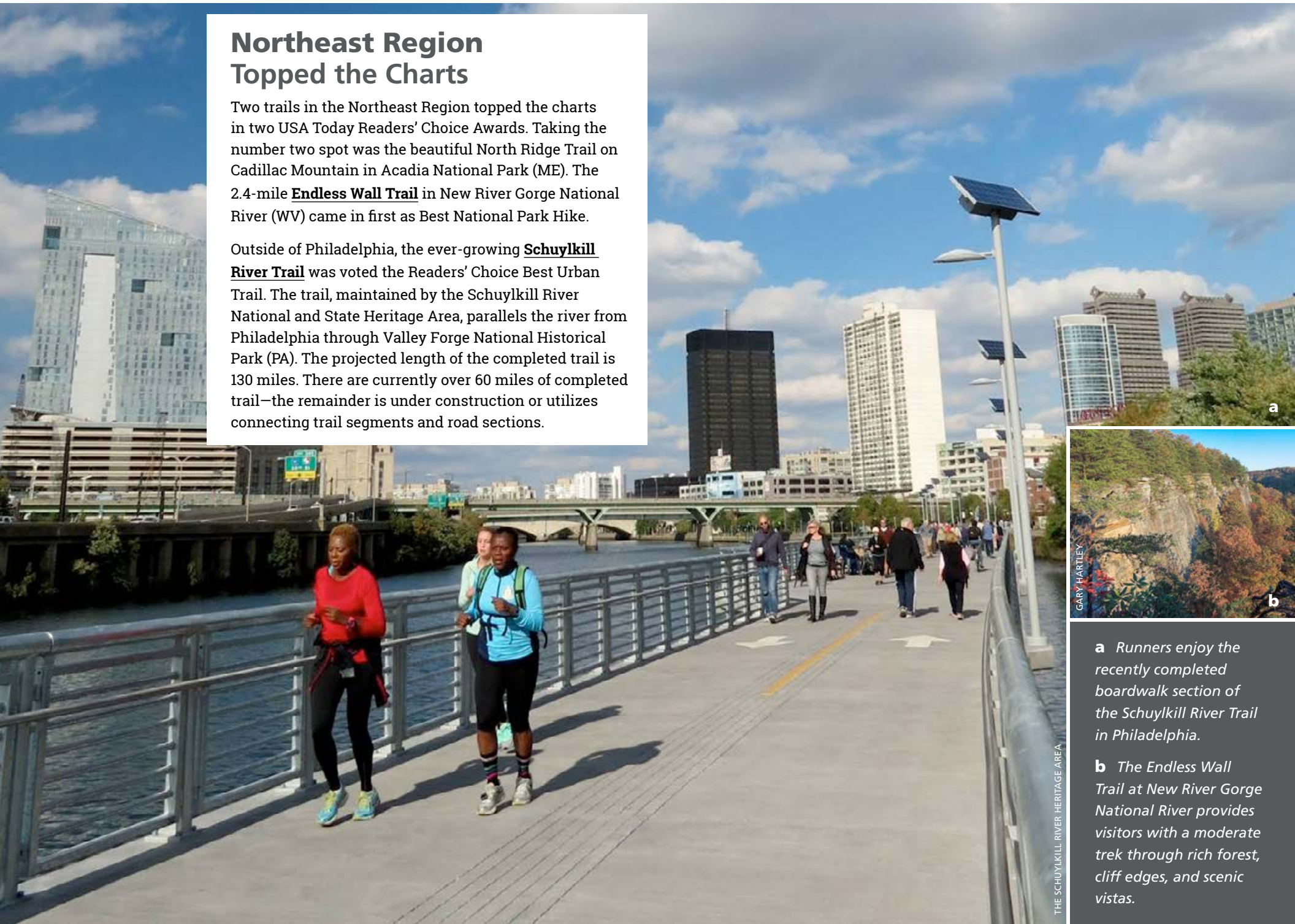
40,000

The estimated number of people attending His Holiness Pope Francis' address in front of Independence Hall.

Northeast Region Topped the Charts

Two trails in the Northeast Region topped the charts in two USA Today Readers' Choice Awards. Taking the number two spot was the beautiful North Ridge Trail on Cadillac Mountain in Acadia National Park (ME). The 2.4-mile **Endless Wall Trail** in New River Gorge National River (WV) came in first as Best National Park Hike.

Outside of Philadelphia, the ever-growing **Schuylkill River Trail** was voted the Readers' Choice Best Urban Trail. The trail, maintained by the Schuylkill River National and State Heritage Area, parallels the river from Philadelphia through Valley Forge National Historical Park (PA). The projected length of the completed trail is 130 miles. There are currently over 60 miles of completed trail—the remainder is under construction or utilizes connecting trail segments and road sections.



a Runners enjoy the recently completed boardwalk section of the Schuylkill River Trail in Philadelphia.

b The Endless Wall Trail at New River Gorge National River provides visitors with a moderate trek through rich forest, cliff edges, and scenic vistas.

Supporters & Advocates

[ad-vuh-keyt] v. to speak or write in favor of; support or urge by argument; recommend publicly

Owning your heritage. How do we turn you into a lifelong supporter of our national parks? By making sure you have an amazing experience when you visit - of course. But also by continually trying new things, investing in the future through research, teacher training, and education. And most importantly, by helping you understand that each and every park and program is connected to a vast and amazing network of places, stories, and landscapes that comprise our national park system. And yes, that system belongs to you.





a Archeologists prepare to investigate site.

b A musket ball that was found on the site of the Battle of Parker's Revenge at Minuteman National Historical Park.

Can You Dig It? Unearthing History

Looking to shed more light on a little-known but significant one-day battle of the American Revolution, **Minute Man National Historical Park** partnered with

their friends group and others to undertake a unique archeological study of Parker's Revenge. Historians and archeologists examined the 44-acre battle site using a wide array of modern technology. They found significant clues, including musket balls and a waistcoat button that showed where Captain John Parker and his

77-member militia fought the British for the second time on April 19, 1775. Through greater understanding of this battle, the heroic story of Parker's decision to march after a force 10 times the size of his can now be shared with the public and receive the recognition it deserves.



Ahead of His Time

One hundred and fifty years ago, Frederick Law Olmsted recognized the need for the nation to preserve its scenic landscape. In 1865, he published the report "Yosemite and the Mariposa Grove," now recognized as one of the most profound and original philosophical statements of the American conservation movement. His ideas inspired others to advocate for their public lands, including his son, Frederick Law Olmsted Jr., who was the lead author for the 1916 Organic Act which established the National Park Service (NPS). A century and a half after Olmsted penned his report, the NPS has grown into a 409-unit system that preserves not only the country's scenic landscapes, but also its cultural and historic sites. **To celebrate,** Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site (MA) and Yosemite National Park (CA) honored Olmsted's vision with public readings of the report, music, and a first-person portrayal of Olmsted by Gerry Wright, parks activist and actor.

Frederick Law Olmsted Reenactor Gerry Wright speaks at Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site.



a Harvard University Zoologist Dr. Jessica Rykken conducts research for the first ever pollinator study at Shenandoah National Park.



b Park rangers from Boston African American National Historic Site greet visitors at the Big E.



c Teachers use the Appalachian National Scenic Trail as an outdoor classroom.

Research is Buzzing at Shenandoah

One of the most important tools used by NPS managers to successfully face increasingly complex issues and protect park resources is research. An exciting new **research grant program**, funded by the Shenandoah National Park Trust, has been designed to facilitate and encourage scientific research in the park. This year, Dr. Jessica Rykken, associate with the Museum of Comparative Zoology at Harvard University, was awarded the inaugural **Shenandoah National Park Trust Research Grant** for her project: "Catch the Buzz: Pollinator Diversity, Distribution and Phenology in Shenandoah National Park." The first of its kind, her study contains several objectives that include documenting species, distribution, phenology, and host plant associations of bees and syrphid flies. Protocols will also be developed for extending this work to citizen science-led monitoring of pollinators in the future.

Partnering for Success

This year marked the beginning of a new partnership between Springfield Armory National Historic Site (MA) and the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation. Together, they developed and staffed a shared exhibition space at the 17-day Eastern States Exposition in Springfield, MA, better known as the The Big E. Fourteen national parks from three states and Massachusetts State Parks participated. Working together, they promoted **Find Your Park** to the thousands of visitors who attended the event.

In support of this new partnership, Massachusetts State Parks will accept the Federal Lands **Every Kid in a Park** pass, providing fourth graders free entry to state as well as national parks and other federal lands during the 2015-2016 school year.

School of Hard Rocks

Some lessons can't be taught in a classroom. That's why the Appalachian National Scenic Trail partnered with the **Appalachian Trail Conservancy** and the U.S. Forest Service to develop the **Trail To Every Classroom** program—a unique professional development opportunity for K-12 teachers that focuses on place-based service learning. During a week-long retreat, teachers learned about trail resources, collaborated with their contemporaries, and developed new curriculum for their students.

FIND YOUR PARK

Find Your Park throughout the
NPS Northeast Region in 2016

nps.gov/nero

findyourpark.com

[#findyourpark](https://findyourpark.com)



*Visitors along with their furry
friends "Find Their Bark" at
Cape Cod National Seashore.*